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Message Text

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SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR STRAUSZ-HUPE'S SWEARING-IN CEREMONY

FOLLOWING IS AN EXCHANGE OF REMARKS BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT AND AMBASSADOR STRAUSZ-HUPE AT THE WHITE HOUSE (APRIL 5) ON THE OCCASION OF AMBASSADOR STRAUSZ-HUPE'S SWEARING-IN.

BEGIN TEXT: THE PRESIDENT: SECRETARY KISSINGER, SECRETARY RUMSFELD, AMBASSADOR STRAUSZ-HUPE, GENERAL SCOWCROFT, MEMBERS OF THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

WE HAVE PLANNED THIS CEREMONY HERE IN THE ROSE GARDEN TODAY IN ORDER TO EMPHASIZE ONCE AGAIN THE IMPORTANCE THAT THE UNITED STATES ATTACHES TO OUR FRIENDSHIP AND SOLIDARITY WITH OUR NATO ALLIES.

FOR OVER A QUARTER OF A CENTURY, NATO HAS SERVED AS A BULWARK OF WESTERN DEFENSES. IT HAS SUCCESSFULLY DE-TERRED AGGRESSION AGAINST THE NORTH ATLANTIC COMMUNITY.
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THE UNITED STATES IS TOTALLY COMMITTED TO THE NATO

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ALLIANCE. IT IS A CORNERSTONE OF OUR FOREIGN POLICY--

HAS BEEN AND IS AND WILL BE IN 1976--AS IT HAS BEEN OVER A QUARTER OF A CENTURY, AND IT WILL CONTINUE TO BE IN THE FUTURE.

SECRETARY KISSINGER SHARES MY OWN VERY DEEP CONVICTION FOR AND DEDICATION TO THE ALLIANCE.

THE MAN WE HAVE CHOSEN TO REPRESENT US IN THIS COUNCIL EXEMPLIFIES THE STRENGTH OF OUR COMMITMENT. ROBERT STRAUSZ-HUPE HAS HAD A LONG AND A VERY DISTINGUISHED CAREER AS A SCHOLAR, A WRITER AND A DIPLOMAT. THROUGH HIS WRITINGS AND HIS DEEDS, HE HAS AMPLY DEMONSTRATED AN UNDERSTANDING OF THE ACTIVE, DEMANDING ROLE THAT THE UNITED STATES MUST PLAY IN THE WORLD AND THE CONTINUING RESPONSIBILITIES WE MUST BEAR FOR OUR COLLECTIVE DEFENSE.

MR. STRAUSZ-HUPE WILL BE REPORTING TO THE NATO HEADQUARTERS IN BRUSSELS AT A TIME WHEN AMONG THE ALLIES THEMSELVES THERE IS A NEW SENSE OF UNITY AND SOLIDARITY. YET, THIS IS ALSO A TIME WHEN HERE IN OUR OWN LAND THERE ARE THOSE WHO QUESTION OUR MILITARY CAPABILITY AND OUR RESOLVE AS A NATION.

WHILE I WELCOME OPEN AND HONEST DEBATE ABOUT AMERICA'S ROLE IN THE WORLD, I CAN ONLY DEPLORE THOSE ACTIONS WHICH TEND TO MISLEAD NOT ONLY OUR OWN PEOPLE, BUT OUR FRIENDS AND ADVERSARIES ABROAD.

MR. AMBASSADOR, I ASK THAT YOU CARRY FROM HERE A PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM ME TO OUR FRIENDS IN EUROPE. TELL THEM IN CLEAR AND UNMISTAKABLE TERMS THE UNITED STATES TODAY IS THE MOST POWERFUL ECONOMIC AND MILITARY FORCE IN THE WORLD, AND WE SHALL REMAIN THAT WAY.

THE UNITED STATES TODAY IS TOTALLY COMMITTED TO THE NATO ALLIANCE. WE HAVE STOOD FIRM IN THE DEFENSE OF LIBERTY FOR TWO CENTURIES, AND WE SHALL ALSO ALWAYS BE UNCLASSIFIED

FAITHFUL TO THAT HERITAGE.

FINALLY, THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TODAY, AS IN THE PAST, IS A TRUE, RELIABLE PARTNER IN THE STRUGGLE FOR PEACE. WE ARE A PEOPLE WHO ARE TRUE TO OUR FRIENDS AND TO OUR BONDS. WE TAKE PRIDE IN THE WAY THAT EUROPE AND AMERICA HAVE JOINED TO OVERCOME ADVERSITY IN THE PAST.

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WE SHALL CONTINUE NOW IN BUILDING A NEW ERA OF
PEACE AND RISING PROSPERITY IN THE FUTURE. TO OUR MANY

ALLIES IN EUROPE AND ELSEWHERE AROUND THE WORLD, OUR
HAND IS OUTSTRETCHED WITH HOPE AND WITH CONFIDENCE AND
WITH FAITH IN OUR FUTURE TOGETHER.

AMBASSADOR STRAUSZ-HUPE: MR. PRESIDENT, MAY I
THANK YOU FOR PRESIDING OVER THIS OCCASION AND FOR THE
TRUST THAT YOU REPOSE IN ME AS YOUR REPRESENTATIVE TO
THE NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION. I AM HONORED
BY YOUR CHOICE. I LOOK FORWARD TO MY NEW ASSIGNMENT
EAGERLY AND HAPPILY.

A WEEK AGO TO THE DAY YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, FORCEFULLY
REAFFIRMED--SPEAKING ON THE MALL OF THE PENTAGON--OUR
COMMITMENT TO A STRONG DEFENSE AND THE NORTH ATLANTIC
TREATY ORGANIZATION, THE TWO BEING SYNONYMOUS IN THE
NORTH ATLANTIC AREA.

THUS, THE NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION REMAINS
THE CORNERSTONE IN THAT GREAT EDIFICE THAT OUR POST-WORLD
WAR II FOREIGN AND SECURITY POLICIES HAVE RAISED. THE
ALLIANCE HAS STOOD THE TEST OF TIME FOR IT HAS NOT BEEN
PUT TO THE TEST OF WAR. THAT IT NOT BE PUT TO THE TEST,
THAT IT REMAIN STRONG AND VITAL AND THUS THE MIGHTY
GUARDIAN OF THE PEACE, THIS I TAKE IT, MR. PRESIDENT,
IS YOUR AND OUR ALLIES PURPOSE.

I THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT.

THE PRESIDENT: THANK YOU VERY MUCH. THE BEST OF
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LUCK. END TEXT.

KISSINGER

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